

CASE REVIEW CRITERIA FOR CDRTs

I. Proposed Standard for CDRT Case Selection Criteria

The goal for the FCANS Program is for all child deaths less than 18 years of age to be reviewed by local CDRTs. We understand that not all teams currently review all child deaths less than 18 years of age. Both the source of cases and the age of child deaths vary by team. Therefore we intend to start with a minimum standard and work toward the goal over the next several years.

By law, all child deaths that are sudden and unexpected, or trauma related are to be reported to the local coroner/medical examiner. Therefore, the FCANS Program criterion for the minimum source is all child deaths that are reported to the coroner/medical examiner.

The FCANS Program minimum age criterion for the selection of child deaths is 14 years of age and under. This cut off is based upon the new Healthy People 2010 national goal for child fatality review (#15.6) that the deaths of all children 14 years of age and under be reviewed by child fatality review teams.

II. Current practice by local CDRTs

Current practices by local California Child Death Review Teams vary, but are close to meeting the program goal. Many teams already meet the ideal standard and nearly all teams meet or exceed the minimum standards.

Chart 1. Proposed and Actual Case Selection Criteria for CDRTs

Criteria	Proposed Standard(s): Ideal and Minimum	Current Practice by CDRTs
A. Source of Cases	Ideal: All child deaths Minimum: Coroner cases	All child deaths; Coroner cases; Coroner cases screened
B. Age of Victims	Ideal: 0 through 17 (< 18) years of age Minimum: 0 through 14	< 18 yrs.; < 12 yrs.; <19 yrs.
C. Causes of Death	Ideal: All child deaths; Minimum: Sudden, unexpected and/or trauma deaths	All child deaths; Sudden, unexpected trauma deaths